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What has been, may be again:

Of an Instance of

K **London's Loyalty,**
in 1640, &c.



PART II.

Wherein is contained

An Account of the first Attempts made to subvert the Government of the City, by opposing the Lord-Mayor's *Nominating the first Sheriff*, after a continu'd Custom of many hundred Years; which having obtain'd, by what Methods they new-Modell'd not only the City but the whole Kingdom; with many Remarkable Occurrences relating particularly to the Management of the Clubs of Reformers at the *Star Tavern* in *Coleman-street*, and the *Nag's-head* in *Basinghall-street*, their Correspondence with the Disaffected Members of both Houses, and several other Things never before Published. Address'd to the *Modern Whigs* and *Luke-warm Church-men*.

Loyalty is still the same

Whether it win or lose the Game;

True as a Dial to the Sun

Whether it is or is not shin'd upon. Hudibras.

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it will not be amiss to give an Instance from our best Historians of this very *Antient Custom*; it is in *Holingshead's Chronicle*, An. Dom. 1486. p. 764. as follows; *In this Year John Percival, one of the Mayor of London's Officers, and his Carver, was then one of the Sheriffs of London; for when the Mayor (as the Custom of London is) doth elect one of the Sheriffs for the Year ensuing, by taking and drinking a Cup of Wine to such a one as he lists to name Sheriff. The Mayor for the Time being, whose Name was Sir Henry Collet, took the Cup of Wine and drank unto the aforesaid John Percival his Carver, standing bare-headed before him and waiting upon his Board, and called him Sheriff of London for the Year ensuing; and forthwith the said Mayor caused the said Percival to sit down at his own Table, and to cover his Head; and the same Percival took upon him the Office of Sheriff, and after was Mayor of London, and was made a Knight. Here it is worth observing, that tho by much Noise and Tumult, and Application to the House of Lords, the said Committee did then carry their Point, by the Interposition of the then Archbishop of York (Dr. Williams) and the Earl of Manchester, who persuaded my Lord Mayor to wave his Privilege for that time, yet the Order for it is no otherwise than thus, It is ordered that the Commons of London shall have the Nomination of the first Sheriff for this time only, without Prejudice to the Lord Mayor, Signed John Brown. Cler. Parliamentor. This was looked on by all Considering Men as a plain breaking in upon the Antient Customs and Privileges of the City, and a sad Presage of the many Evils that flow'd in upon them afterwards.*

Having made this great Breach into the Constitution, they next attempt to establish themselves and Party in all Places of Profit or Power; in order to it they attack the Chamberlain (Mr. Bateman) who not being of their Party was not for their turn: thus they struggle hard for John Venn, who tho as often refus'd, yet still he and his Party persisted in their Clamours, and

endeavour'd to displace all the honest Gentlemen not only in the City but the Kingdom; and what could be otherwise expected from Men who had openly declared, *That if the King would not grant them the Disposal of all the Offices in the Kingdom, they would afford him no Aid, and they should be acquitted before God and Man,* (as said Pym.)

Being disappointed this Year, the next Year they try to eject the Lord Mayor (Sir Richard Gurney) tho in Possession, from his Office; which was effected; for his Lordship, for opposing the rash Proceedings of this hot-headed Committee, was sent to the Tower, and one Pennington put in for the remaining part of his Year. Their next Business was to get the Militia of the City into their Hands, which was brought about by the same riotous Methods which they always made use of; and at last even the Tower it self (with all the Arms and Ammunition) was entrusted with these insolent Traitors, by the Direction of the Fanatical Party in the Houses of Parliament. Then they began more openly to discover their unreasonable Intentions, and to declare what the End of all their Noise, Tumults, and Clamours, was, *viz.* To thrust themselves into all Places of Power or Profit, by villifying the Best of Kings and renting to pieces Christ's Spotless Garment the Church of England. *[Which God grant may never more be in their Power.]* Now there began a close Cabal between a Committee of the House of Commons, with several Lords of the same Stamp, and our Reformers, to gull the Citizens of their Money; as they had before of their Loyalty. Our Committee of Reformers at the Star often resorted to the Levée of the Lord Says, Ed. Kimbolton, &c. and received Directions to instruct the Prentices of London to handle their Arms, which they did once or twice a Week at least throughout the City; and those following the Example and Encouragement of their Instructors, had their frequent Meetings at *Armourers-hall* in *Coleman-street*, where they chose a Committee and entered

tered into a Covenant, to preserve the Parliament with their Lives and Fortunes, and to extirpate Episcopacy; then they put up Bills to their new Teachers to pray for them, that they might stick close to their God in the new Covenant they had entered into. (*A Blessed Reformation!*)

Their next Business was to silence those Ministers who preach'd up *Passive Obedience* and *Non-Resistance*, (which was always the Distinguishing Mark of the true Sons of the *Church of England*) for so long as these were suffer'd to Preach that wholesome Doctrine, the People could not be made believe that Pious Prince (*K. Charles I.*) ever intended to introduce Popery into the Church; therefore those very Men who were the Church's greatest Bulwark, and the Nation's best Instructors must be charg'd with being guilty of endeavouring to subvert that very Government they preach'd Obedience to, and to undermine that very Church whose Doctrines they had so strenuously defended. (*Ecce iterum Crispinus!*)

To this end a Committee was procur'd of the House of Commons to eject *Scandalous Ministers*, and those Varlets, being Tools to the *Grand Reformers*, could find none so, but those that profess'd the Pure Doctrines of the Church as by Law establish'd; for they were oblig'd to allow all Sectaries to be lawfully call'd, that they might strengthen their Party and bring their Designs about (tho they afterwards would have serv'd them the same Trick, when they had gain'd their Ends) and therefore declare, *That the Intent of this Reformation was not to be extended to the maintaining of any Form of Warship, Discipline, or Government, nor any Rites or Ceremonies of any particular Church*, which was a Bait to draw in all Malecontents to their Assistance, and prov'd of great Use to ruin themselves afterwards, as they were by the *Independents*, &c. They entrusted Feoffees to buy Impropriations (pretendedly for the Increase of Livings in and about the City) but when they had got them into their Hands,

Hands, it was only that they might pay their own Tools, to rail against their Lawful Sovereign and the Government of the Church by Bishops. These Examiners ejected at once 115 *London* Ministers from their Livings, for no other Reason but Non-compliance with their Cursed Doctrines and Practices, and seiz'd their Goods, imprison'd their Persons, and turn'd out their Families to starve. [No doubt upon Moderation Principles.] Having silenc'd the Ministers they next stop't his Majesty's Press, that nothing might be publish'd by that Great and Good Prince to awaken his People from their Lethargy, and make them sensible of his good and gracious Designs towards them; for they were too sensible of his great Qualifications to satisfy any that had the Opportunity to peruse his gracious Declarations, Letters, and other his Condescensions to make his People happy; which gave Occasion for that unlucky Proverb in the City,

If the King could out-fight 'em,

As he did out-write 'em,

They might all go — 'em.

They had already gained the Army and Navy to their Side, and his Majesty yielded so far to their Importunities, as to put the *Tower* into their Hands; when they, like true *Presbyterians* (whose Principle is always to pretend themselves persecuted when it is not in their Power to persecute others, and never fail of practising it if they have but Opportunity) wanted only to gull the People of Money to pay them, and carry on their treacherous Designs against that good King and Nation. The Committee of Commons, the Disaffected Lords, and our Reformers, are every Day in close Consult to gain this great Point, and for greater Convenience have leave to sit in *Grocers-hall*; the first thing they do is to direct the Reformers at the *Star* to draw up a Petition, which was impudent and scandalous to the last Degree, (tho it perfectly agreed with the Practices they were driving at) and they procur'd a Number of Hands, but for want of Substantial Citizens to sign it, who

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were asham'd of such disingenuous Actions, they took in Children and all the lowest Rank of People in the City, and then pretend it a Petition of the City of *London* in general, only to make way for what was now in Agitation to procure the City to advance Money to carry on their Damnable Cause. They then amuse the People with Tumults and strange and ridiculous Relations of Sham-Plots to destroy the City, and keep them in continual Alarms, that they may implant a Dread of their imaginary Danger, and open their Purses liberally to be secur'd from Fears of their own creating. But the most impudent and ridiculous of all was what was cry'd about *London Streets*, *Treason against Mr. Pym by sending him in a Letter a Plaister taken from a Plague Sore. Treason against Mr. Pym.* Then they spread about Reports of an Invasion from abroad, and a Copy of a Letter was disperst about the City pretended to be writ from *Hamborough* to no body knew whom in *London*, of a great Army prepared in *Denmark* ready to be shipt for *England*, in it a List of the Commander in chief, Colonels, Captains, and other Officers, with the Number of Men, Horse and Foot, the Store of Arms, Ordnance and Ammunition. One while they were landed in *Kent*, another in *Essex*, a third reported that they were met by *Van Trump* at Sea, who demanding a Sight of the *Danish* Admiral's Commission, and he refusing it, *Van Trump* fell on him, and sunk and fired him and his whole Fleet, that not one escap'd. *All alike true.*

But this not fully answering their Expectations, they next make use of Violence by Imprisoning and Confiscating the Goods and Estates of all that any ways opposed their arbitrary and unlawful Proceedings; for Instance, *Mr. Gardner* and *Mr Binion* having procured a Loyal Petition to be signed by great Numbers of the best and most wealthy part of the Citizens, in Opposition to that which the *Reformers at the Star* had before presented, and venturing to carry it and deliver it also
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to the *House of Commons*, it was voted Seditious and Scandalous, and themselves censured in the *House of Peers* as follows, *viz.* 1st, fined 3000 Pounds each. 2^{dly}, Disfranchised of the Privileges and Freedom of the City. 3^{dly}, Never to bear any Office in the Kingdom. 4^{bly}, Committed close Prisoners to *Colechester Gaol* for two Years: 5^{bly}, At the Expiration of two Years to give Security for their good Behaviour, such as they should approve of. All which was severely inflicted on them and several others, by which means they extorted many prodigious Sums from their Fellow-Subjects to their Ruine and Destruction. Several others were serv'd as bad or worse. One other Course they made use of to supply their Coffers was this, Money was collected for the Relief of the Protestants in *Ireland*, and deposited in the Chamber of *London*, of which 100000 *l.* was seisd at one time, and as much at another, on pretence to reward the Ministers that they pretended were plunder'd, tho they had nothing to lose, and the rest for their own Use and to raise Rebellion. And now they arriv'd at the highest Pitch of Impudence, for instead of wheedling, as Mr. *Calamy* and the rest of the Preachers used, when the Cry was, *O happy Money! happy Penny! that will purchase the Gospel. Happy Money! that will purchase Religion. Happy Money! that will purchase Reformation; O happy, happy Money!* But now, after a fourth Loan gain'd of us by this way, they tell us plainly, *They have the Power, and they will have our Money. And with it they turn'd all things into Confusion.*

Much more might be extracted out of the Manuscript, but this having never been published before, and the most material, may serve as a Specimen of the Temper of that *Rebellious Party*, who will not fail of acting over the same again if ever it be in their Power, which Pray God prevent; and from all False Doctrine, Heresie and Schism, *Libera nos Domine.*

23 JUL 60

F I N I S

